

To the Directors of the
London Missionary Society

May 11th 1836
Ebeneser, Lake Macquarie
New South Wales.

Reverend and Respected Gentlemen

Having been assailed in a public newspaper belonging to Doctor Lang in several articles written by himself respecting my conduct, which in connexion with the London Missionary Society and subsequently up to the present moment, I felt it my duty to allow him the opportunity of proving the truth of his charges in a court of Justice; the result has been that he has failed, and a verdict was issued in my favour, with nominal damages, carrying costs. I herewith forward copies of the trial to as many of the Directors, my Brother Missionaries and other friends, as my means will allow. One of the objects of the Libel was to provoke a newspaper defence thereby affording matter for leading articles to his paper. Since the trial, although Doctor Lang professed to accord with my desire that ill feelings should be for ever banished from our minds, expressed in open court, yet his paper still continues its weekly vituperations against me personally. My mind has resolved not to gratify him by entering into the merits of that misunderstanding which formerly existed between the Directors, the Reverend Mr Marsden and myself, even in my own defence; I am not certain, that at this time, it would prove beneficial to the common cause of Christianity to pursue such a course: But something is required to stop the mouths of Adversaries; the point at issue, and of which any opponent may avail himself is the unjust charge of "Exorbitant and Extravagant Expenditure" during the years of 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, to 1830 on account of the Aboriginal Mission professed

by the Directors in their resolutions against me, without allowing an opportunity of defence by Committee, or, otherwise, at that period. To this charge I plead, still, not guilty, designedly, or, undesignedly; But affirm that I was bound to act as I did, in good faith, after I was involuntarily led into an expensive mission placed under different circumstances than those under which it was first proposed to me in October 1824, namely: "That the Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane, was to provide rations for us and attendants, to build our house &c. at Lorton Bay, and that only a small stipend would be required from the Society annually for extras." Years have rolled on, and in consequence of an accuser, something becomes necessary to justify my character in this respect; and which I wish to do without reflecting on the measures of former Directors. I have, therefore, ^{applied to} ~~my~~ "The Friends," James Backhouse, and George Washington Walker, both perfectly disinterested in the matter, who have visited my station, entered minutely into my accounts, and ^{examined} explained fully my books receipts &c. &c. respecting the said expenditure from June 1824 to the termination of the Mission, under your support; to whom, I beg, to refer you for the result of their investigation, in reference to the said accounts, and of my conduct as a missionary up to the present period. Confident that it will afford you the pleasing opportunity of passing such a public resolution as shall disarm our opponents, and without prejudices to former Directors, relieve me from an unmerited censure, not only in M^r Hankey's communications to the Governor produced by Doctor Lang on the trial, but recorded in the minutes of the Society, against which I am bound conscientiously to protest.

With every feeling of respect
I remain Gentlemen
yours faithfully
L. E. Mitchell

Copy

The Reverend William Ellis
Secretary to the London Missionary Society
London Missionary Society's House
London

L. E. Threlkeld

May 10 36. N.S. books.

L. E. Threlkeld
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